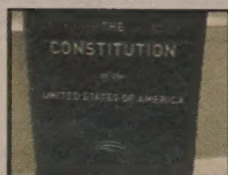




Poet to present White
Fund lecture
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Fallout from Infowars
ban
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Meet NECC's first Public
Safety Director
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NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

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Fall 2018 • Volume 84 • Issue Number 1 • Sept. 12, 2018

News Bytes

On September 24th,
course audit forms are
due to Enrollment
Services for the Fall 2018
semester.

First in your family?
Want help with transfers
and scholarships? On
September 25th from
10:00 am to 1:00 pm,
check out the PACE pro-
gram. Attend this work-
shop to learn about the
process to transfer and to
access scholarships. See
if you qualify to be part
of the PACE program as
well!

This event is open to all
students, and will be of-
fered on multiple dates.
For more information,
contact Kristen Arnold
at
karnold@necc.mass.edu

Volunteer positions
available for a Habitat
for Humanity build in
Lawrence on the 26th of
September.
Please sign up to volun-
teer as space is limited.
Contact the organizer at
978-738-7530 or at
jdagatalynch@necc.mass.edu

On September 29th,
Sharon Owens and
Sebastian Anzaldo per-
form a tribute to Frank
Sinatra and Barbra
Streisand.
7:00-9:00 pm
See Signature Event
page for details

Parking change pays off



Cars are parked in the Spurr building lot on Sept. 10.

Photo by Mariella Mendez

Free pass policy greeted with surprise

BY MARIELLA MENDEZ
Features Editor

This upcoming school year
is all about change, and this one
will have a big impact.

Many students may not know
that the school has officially
changed the parking policy.

This means students will have
the freedom to park at any lot
available for free.

After brief interviews with
new students and returning ones,
many said they were pleasantly
surprised to hear the news, which
they were not aware of.

Mileichali Minaya, 18, Psy-
chology major is new to campus,
and although the new parking
policy does not exactly pertain to
her directly because she doesn't
drive to campus, she was still
pleased to know that NECC was
taking initiative to help those
who do drive to class.

Minaya says, "I don't drive
myself to classes but this will
definitely benefit the student
body."

She brought up a good point
saying, the closer you allow stu-
dents to park, the better they can
arrive to class efficiently and on
time."

The problem with the old pol-
icy seemed to be that students
had to calculate arriving to class
on time especially when they are
parked relatively far from their
building.

Although the Haverhill cam-
pus is pretty compact, walking
from one end to the other is time
consuming.

David Gardner, 19, Elementa-
ry Education major expressed joy
upon hearing the news.

He says, that "although the
cost of parking wasn't too pricey
to begin with, it was another in-
convenient process that students
had to go through."

Gardner believes that this pol-
icy will be "smoother for us stu-
dents, who pay enough already to
attend school."

Nineteen year old graphic de-
sign major, Susan Elias is a re-
turning student who had positive
comments about the new policy.

"I drive to school on a daily basis,
but I have never paid for parking.
I wasn't aware of the new change,
I'm glad students don't have to
pay anymore, that's awesome."

"I approve of this policy be-
cause I don't find it fair that stu-
dents have pay for parking just to
be able to get to class," Elias said.

"I think this will be great for
the students and maybe more
will feel better about driving to
school instead of finding alterna-
tives. This also reduces the fear
of receiving a ticket for accident-
ally parking without a pass and
will attract more students to our
campus."

New hang tags will be admin-
istered to students free of charge
when they register for their initial
semester. E

very semester, students will
have to get stickers for their hang
tags that indicates what semester
you've registered for. The hang
tags are interchangeable mean-
ing you can switch in between
vehicles. Any students attending
orientation will receive their tags
Continued on page 4

Important dates:

The YWCA North-
eastern Massachusetts
will be hosting Active
Bystander Informa-
tion Tables on both the
Lawrence and Haverhill
campuses on the 18th
of September.

The tables will be
open from 11:30 am to
1:30 pm.

Domestic Violence
and sexual assault pre-
vention advocates will
be there to provide in-
formation about what
it means to be an active
bystander.

The Lawrence cam-
pus table will be in the
El-Hefni Allied Health
and Technology Center.

The Haverhill cam-
pus table will be in the
Spurr Building.

How to find security around each campus:

Haverhill Campus
100 Elliott St.,
room TC122
978.556.3689

Lawrence Campus
45 Franklin St. main lobby
978.655.5939

Editorial

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Online censorship stifles discourse

Recent actions by major social media platforms heralds the restriction of free expression and the collapse of partisan discourse

By BRENNAN COONEY
Editor-In-Chief

Social Media, for all the regulations, terms of service, and monitoring has largely been a wild place for a long time. There has often been simply too many comments, and too much content created every second of every day to be entirely locked down. However, this may be changing as self-described dissidents with relatively large audiences face finding themselves shut down and locked out of many major Social Media networks.

Difficult issues are often magnets for zealots of many a stripe, and such a platform should be the front line of difficult discussions and the epicenter of our wider free and open discourse. But the danger of a new, policed social media is that, these well-trafficked sites are increasingly not a place of free or open discourse

at all.

What might be the first major blanket-ban from silicon valley is the infamous radio show "Infowars" hosted by heavily-memed host Alex Jones. The New York Times reported on the 5th of August 2018 that Infowars podcasts had been removed from Apple, at the same time as the channel was deleted from Youtube and Facebook. The latest blow of this barrage came only two days ago when CBS news reported that the Infowars application had been banned from the App Store permanently.

The problem of censorship need not, certainly should not, be a partisan one. To silence discourse and narrow the viewpoint of the public to only "safe" and "accepted" ideas is a dystopian principle no matter who is en-

forcing it.

Certainly, such a character as Alex Jones is a negligible cost to most. Social media platforms decided to kick off a network they find disagreeable, what of it? Regardless of how we feel about social media, it has become an integral part of wider Western culture and monopoly-wielding corporations have taken it upon themselves to decide what is right or wrong for the individual to be exposed to.

Ultimately, this boils down to a question of comfortable restriction or uncomfortable freedom. Some are content to surrender their agency and personal decision making to a for-profit corporate entity that appears bent on quite literally washing the brains of the populace to be free of dreaded "hate-speech," which is itself as indefinite and Orwellian a term as they come.

Then, there are those that hold their self-determination dear, as a central pillar of the society they inherited from their forefathers. I count myself firmly among these individuals. I will happily sit across the table from even the most heinous of ideol-

ogies, and question them. There can be no greater tool against backwards or hateful ideas than forcing them to be proved or demonstrated. Stereotypes, slander and lies are best rebuked by having them spoken loudly and often, only to be challenged with just as much fervor.

If Infowars is not enough an indication of the moral policing that these networks have undertaken, explore an Instagram page that publishes Second World War history. Many such accounts have abandoned displaying German military paraphernalia, or satirically altering the infamous Swastika with the Facebook logo to avoid being deplatformed. These are in no way political accounts, they deal in real history that is essential to learn, if it is to be prevented from repeating. This is not a direct attempt to censor history, but rather a ghastly side effect of programs and algorithms that target any post with the aforementioned party emblem and flag the page for deletion.

Who is better prepared to understand and navigate a political environment divided along increasingly fanatical left and right

wing factions? One who has been exposed to such imagery and context at various points throughout their life, or one who has only ever heard of the NSDAP or similar ideologies through the woefully underperforming public education systems across the country.

But these self-proclaimed defenders of all that is good and decent are apparently not interested in such exchanges. The cry out like a toddler that doesn't want to have to walk anymore, why should we have to hear what we don't like? Why not ignore other viewpoints and let history be rewritten and forgotten? What harm has forgetting history done? The last thing I want is for some faceless organization to hold my hand as though I were a curious child eager to go try and pet tigers. Ideas are not defeated by being silenced. Now martyred, what Jones has to say is now more vindicated than anything. Yes, these companies are out to silence opposition, to what end, I leave to his infinitely more intricate imagination.

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

Spring 2018 Observer Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : Brennan Cooney
COPY EDITOR : Now hiring
OPINION EDITOR : Now Hiring
NEWS EDITOR : Now Hiring
FEATURES EDITOR : Mariella Mendez
A&E EDITOR : Now Hiring
SPORTS EDITOR : Now Hiring
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR : Now Hiring
WEB EDITOR : Now Hiring
STAFF WRITER : Now Hiring
CIRCULATION : Observer Staff
FACULTY ADVISER : Mary Jo Shafer

Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now?
Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to observer@necc.mass.edu.

Publication Schedule

Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
#1	Sept. 12	N/A
#2	Oct. 3	Sept. 26
#3	Oct. 24	Oct. 17
#4	Nov. 7	Oct. 31
#5	Nov. 28	Nov. 21
#6	Dec. 12	Dec. 5

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to observer@necc.mass.edu

We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

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We want to see what you have to say.

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Roaming Reporter will return Oct. 3

Opinion

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Starting off the semester right

A few ways to stay healthy, stay organized and stay on schedule

By BRENNAN COONEY
Editor-in-Chief

From myself and all of us at the Observer, welcome back! I hope you had a restful and fun summer. For those who are just joining the Northern Essex community, Here's a few ways you can own your first semester, and I hope this article can be useful to returning scholars as well.

Give yourself time. An oft repeated mantra is "hope for the best, but prepare for the worst." I have yet to find a situation as apt for this as a busy week mid-semester. Having twenty to thirty extra minutes in the morning to eat and get your things together can help the day begin without the headache.

For those who drive to campus, make sure to keep up with car maintenance. Few things can derail a day of classes as readily as a breakdown or similar holdup. While these sorts of things do happen, keeping a close eye on what needs to be done can minimize these dis-

tractions and keep you and your semester on a roll.

Stay on top of deadlines. As much as parents and professors will hammer this point, no one can emphasize the damage to your health waiting till the last moment will inflict as much as a fellow student who has routinely done themselves the disservice.

Keeping a schedule for class assignments will help prioritize and finish well in time to stay ahead, get enough rest and maybe even have time to socialize in between. I personally main-

tain two schedule books, one of which is class-only material, and one which is class and everything else. Having the classwork in a book all it's own declutters the assignments, and establishing a list by priority is far easier.

Be conscious of what food and drink you consume. Like so many working and studying people, I adore coffee. Coffee helps start us up in the morning, and isn't necessarily bad for you. But, too much coffee, especially without anything else, will likely end in a sore gut and throbbing temples.

Yogurt, toast and one good-sized fruit along with coffee in the morning is a fine balance, and can go along way to take a person from only awake to alert, satisfied, energized, and ready to go.

Find ways to decompress. Like any well-oiled machine, the hard working student will build up pressure over time. From class to class, from assignment to assignment, even when everything is done on time and all is going well, still the pressure is there. It is essential to find two or three ways to let off this steam and come back to

a more slow, calm state of mind. Approaching difficult situations from a cool, and collected mindset is not only immensely beneficial to the student, but also shows others a well-composed individual who is capable of challenging themselves and living up to high expectations.

These are only a few methods I hope can help start the semester off at a good pace.

- Brennan Cooney

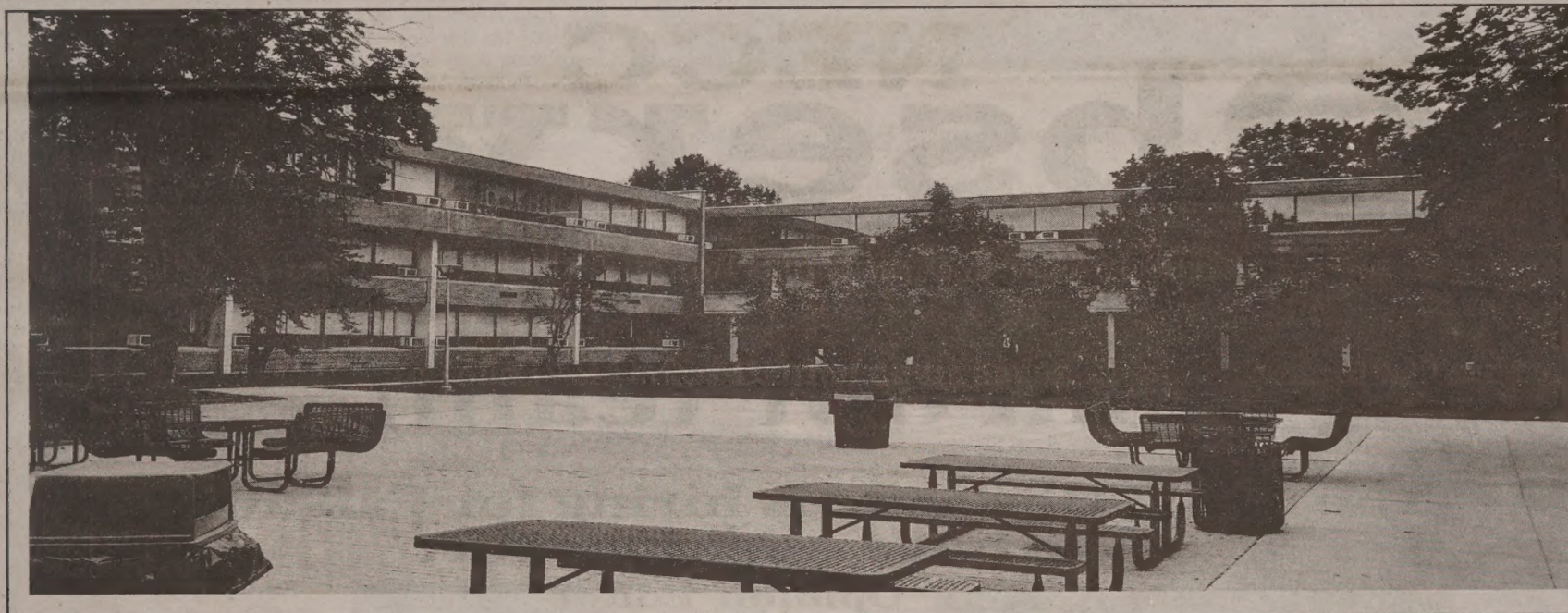


Photo by Brennan Cooney

The quad at the Haverhill campus offers places to sit and socialize or study.

Get involved with your student newspaper

The Observer!

Get to know your school better as you write and report for 6 issues per semester.

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News

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Continued from front page.

there.

Hang tags are to be displayed at all times and are to be hung on the rearview mirror. If it is stolen or lost, students must report to Enrollment Services and Student Financial Services who administer a new one. T

he hang tags will be available in the Student Success Hub in the Haverhill Campus and the El-Hefni building (44 Common St) in the Lawrence Campus.

NECC faculty members can get their hangtags in the Public Safety pickup locations which are located in the Public Safety desk room in TC-122 in haverhill or at the Public Safety desk on 414 Common street in Lawrence.

Parking for visitors will be located in the Hartleb Technology Center parking lot and specific parking areas will be designated whenever there is an upcoming event. Parking on the Lawrence Campus will be located on 78 Amesbury St. Lot D, the Goudreault Lot C on 414 Common St. and the Dimitry A parking lot on 45 Franklin St. At Riverwalk there is parking on Merrimack Street across from the Riverwalk building.

Students or staff who park in handicapped spaces are not authorized to obtain a hang tag but are encouraged in case handicapped spaces are not prominently available.



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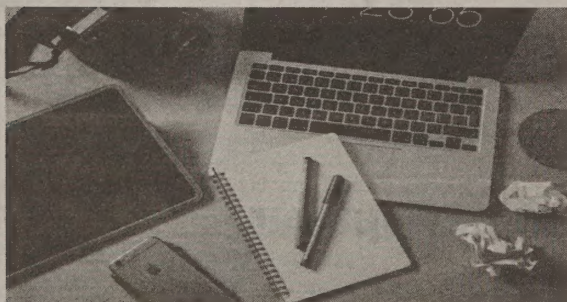
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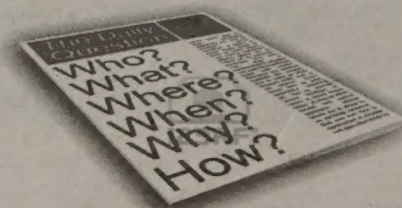
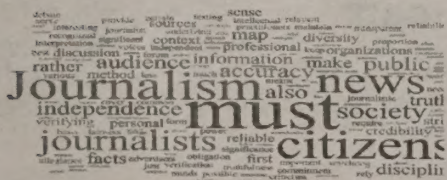


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Grad honored by Lawrence City Council

Jinette Galarza was presented with a citation for academic success and leadership

By KILEY BROADHURST

NECC Newsroom

NECC Graduate Jinette Galarza was presented with a citation for academic success and leadership. (Left to right) NECC President Lane Glenn, NECC graduate Jinette Galarza, Councilor Estella Reyes, Councilor Marc Laplante

The Lawrence City Council presented Lawrence resident and Northern Essex Community College graduate Jinette Galarza with a special citation based on her academic success and demonstrated leadership at its August 21 meeting. The citation was presented by Councilors Marc Laplante and Estella Reyes.

A liberal arts major, Galarza graduated from Northern Essex with high honors in May and is currently enrolled in the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Lowell, majoring in history with a minor in Arabic studies. After earning her master's, her goal is to be a high school history teacher and teach in her city.

"The necessity is great and there is great potential in our Lawrence youth," she says. Originally from Puerto Rico, Galarza, now 32, moved to Lawrence when she was 10 years old. She attended middle school in the city and went on to graduate from Essex Agricultural School in Danvers.

After high school, she joined the workforce to help support her family which included her mother and her stepfather, who recently passed away.

Galarza is active in her church serving as a youth leader for the past 10 years and participating in seven missionary trips to poverty-stricken areas in Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, China, and Western Sahara.

It was through her work as a youth leader that Galarza discovered she had a talent and passion for teaching, and through her missionary trips that she found she loved learning about other cultures.

"Community service led me to my calling," she says.

Most people would find juggling full-time college and full-time work enough of a challenge, but not Galarza.

She has served on the Student Senate, as a presidential ambassador, and as a student orientation leader; served as campus life editor for the "Observer," the college's student newspaper; and recently organized Northern Essex's first Renaissance Fair, which brought hundreds of people to campus.



Photo by Name Name

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Journalism instructor attends multimedia training

Observer adviser participated in Dow Jones News Fund program

By ELLEN SMALL-DAVIS

NECC Newsroom

Mary Jo Shafer of Lynn, a Northern Essex Community College adjunct journalism/communication professor and advisor to the "Observer," NECC's student newspaper, attended a week-long Dow Jones multimedia training academy designed for educators teaching in Hispanic-serving institutions.

She was one of 12 journalism instructors from around the country to attend the ninth annual academy, funded by a grant from the Dow Jones News Fund. It was held at the University of Texas in El Paso.

The intent of the program is to assist journalism educators in acquiring new skills in digital storytelling that they can use to prepare the next generation of Latino college journalists to make them more competitive in the media industry. The educators practice news reporting using a variety of digital equipment, soft-



ware programs, and platforms.

"It's important that NECC's journalism program is always seeking up-to-date skills for our students," said Shafer.

"The trainers at the academy understand what educators need to learn about new and emerging technologies to better prepare their students for the fast-changing future," said Linda Shockley, deputy director of Dow Jones News Fund. "This quality of instruction, at absolutely no cost to participants and their universities, is priceless."

The educators were from diverse teaching back-

grounds including print, photojournalism, broadcast, as well as other platforms.

"This program was pretty amazing," said Shafer. "I am already benefiting from the hands-on skills gained. It will immediately make a tangible impact on my students. It was truly one of the best trainings I have ever attended. I returned feeling energized, equipped, and inspired. I was interested in attending this program because of its experiential nature and its focus on Hispanic Serving Institutions."

Northern Essex offers an associate in arts option in journalism/communication. Students are provided with an opportunity to experience what it is like to work in the communications field.

The program provides basic courses and practical experience for careers that could include jobs with newspapers, magazines, publishing, television, or radio.

For additional information contact Shafer at mshafer@necc.mass.edu

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Performance poet to be White Fund lecturer

Elizabeth Acevedo will perform and read from her new novel-in-verse 'The Poet X'

By ELLEN SMALL DAVIS
NECC Newsroom

Poet, author, performing artist Elizabeth Acevedo will perform and read from her new novel-in-verse "The Poet X," during a Thursday, Oct. 4, White Fund Lecture, offered in partnership with Northern Essex Community College, at the Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence St. in Lawrence.

The event is free and open to the public. It begins at 6 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. A question and answer period will follow the performance and reading.

Acevedo will be available to sign books.

Acevedo is the youngest child and only daughter of Dominican Republic immigrants.

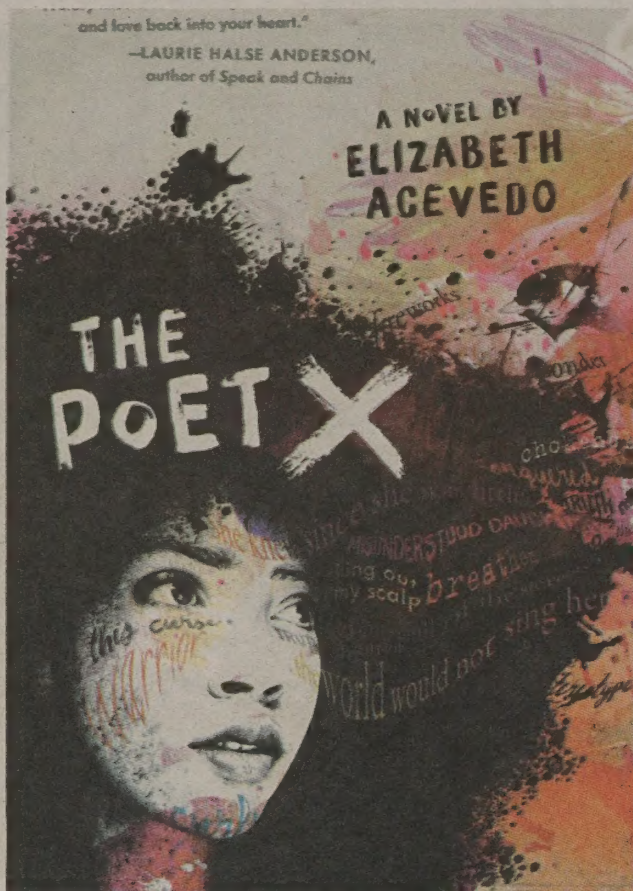
She was born and raised in New York City. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts from the George Washington University and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Maryland.

With more than 15 years of performance experience, Acevedo has toured her poetry nationally and internationally.

She is a National Poetry Slam Champion, Cave Canem Fellow, CantoMundo Fellow, and participant of the Callaloo Writer's Workshop.

She has two collections of poetry, "Beastgirl & Other Origin Myths" and winner of the 2016 Berkshire Prize, "Medusa Reads La Negra's Palm." "The Poet X" is her debut novel. She lives with her partner in Washington, DC.

A discussion group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m. in



the Lawrence Public Library. This group is open to the public and will discuss Elizabeth Acevedo's "The Poet X." The White Fund's purpose is to have a free series of interactive presentations for Lawrence area adults, youth, and children. The audience is encouraged to seek wisdom, cultural enrichment, and intellectual enhancement by attending and participating.

The views expressed in the White Fund Enlightenment Series Presentations are the views of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Northern Essex Community College. Funded by a generous financial gift from the Honorable Daniel Appleton White, the White Fund Lecture Series has provided cultural conversation featuring well-known lecturers in



Courtesy photo

Elizabeth Acevedo

fields such as history, literature, travel, the arts, and politics. The White Fund is collaborating with Northern Essex on this series.

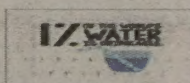
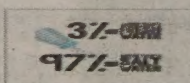
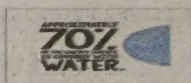
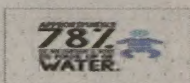
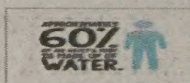
For additional information or to be notified of upcoming

events in the White Fund Enlightenment Series, contact Analuz Garcia at agarcia@necc.mass.edu or call 978-738-7423 or visit the White Fund website.

INGRID HESS CONSUMPTION: CONSIDERING RESOURCES & WASTE

"MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUE FACING OUR WORLD TODAY. THIS EXHIBITION ASKS THE VIEWER TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LIMITED RESOURCES."

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8AM – 9PM
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Sponsored by the Liberal Arts Division & the Art Dept.
This show is supported by a grant from the Haverhill Cultural Council. For more information please contact: mmannheimer@necc.mass.edu or pkidney@necc.mass.edu



Campus Life



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Just another rainy Monday.....



Photo by Mariella Mendez

A rainy day cut down on campus foot traffic on Monday, but the parking lot by the C building was full of cars as the first full week of classes got underway and students, faculty and staff made their way to a fall-feeling campus after a hot, humid summer.

Practice fields



Photo by Mariella Mendez

Before the rain began on Monday some students ventured onto the baseball diamond to practice their skills.

Features

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NECC welcomes new director of public safety

Deborah Crafts was recently hired at NECC

By MARIELLA MENDEZ

Features Editor

Northern Essex introduces a new position this year that was recently filled by Deborah Crafts, who has been hired as the Director of Public Safety.

Crafts has had a variety of experience from Northeastern University where she worked for the Northeastern police department full time while still attending as a student.

Prior to joining the Northern Essex staff she also had prior experience working at Bentley University and MassBay Community College as a temporary director.

Crafts states that the position at Northern Essex interested her because she "really enjoys working at a community college."

She is particularly excited about this position because she gets to create her own department from scratch.

Crafts is entering this school year full of ideas.

When asked about any potential changes she'd implement on campus she replied, "One of the first things I would do is ask you, what do you think is needed here. And that's what I'm doing right now, is I'm really talking to people. I've been here two months and there are people who have been here for years. I've been at seven institutions and they're all different, and have different needs, so generally speaking right now I am just going out and searching for what people want on campus."

Not only is Crafts looking to keep both the Haverhill and Lawrence Campuses safe, but she says, "philosophically, we're in an educational institution so part of my role is to educate, so that students not only feel safe here, but also feel safe at home or at your first job."

She is aiming to implement workshops and informal events for students and faculty to provide tips and tools so that everyone feels control of their safety.

She also wants the public safety department to be a space for students to go to if they feel unsafe about any aspect of their lives whether it be at school or at home. According to Crafts, smaller changes can make big differences on campus, like communicating with one another if someone sees something that seems out of place.

Eventually she would like to implement access control, where students are able to enter buildings with their ID cards as a form of access. She says she would also like to see more forms of security in and around the buildings and staff who can stay vigilant of areas as well as educating and preparing students.

Northern Essex has also issued a new Public Safety Space in the Spurk building in room 110. The room next door will be the Public Safety Communications Office and will be equipped with video feed, and emergency backup power.

Crafts is hoping to include a centralized form of communication in which someone would be in the communications office throughout the day to answer calls as a

dispatcher would, increase of an emergency.

Students also have the freedom to contact the Public Safety Office if they feel they need an escort to their car.

Many students attend night classes or stay on campus during later hours and therefore can have security walk

them over to their vehicle.

Northern Essex will be releasing their annual security report, also known as a Clery report on October 1, which provides any crime statistics on campus.

Students have full access to this report and should update their knowledge of campus crime. Students should always

remain aware of checking any emails regarding the Public Safety Department. To report a medical or safety emergency on campus, students should dial 911 as well as notify the Public Safety Office by calling (978)-566-333 or ext 333 from an on campus phone.



Photo courtesy of NECC Newsroom

New NECC Director of Public Safety Deborah Crafts

“

One of the first things I would do is ask you, what do you think is needed here. And that's what I'm doing right now, is I'm really talking to people....

- Deborah Crafts

”

This paper is your voice, too!
We want to see what you have to say.

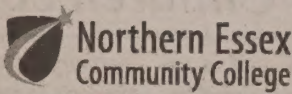
You can reach us at:

978-556-3027

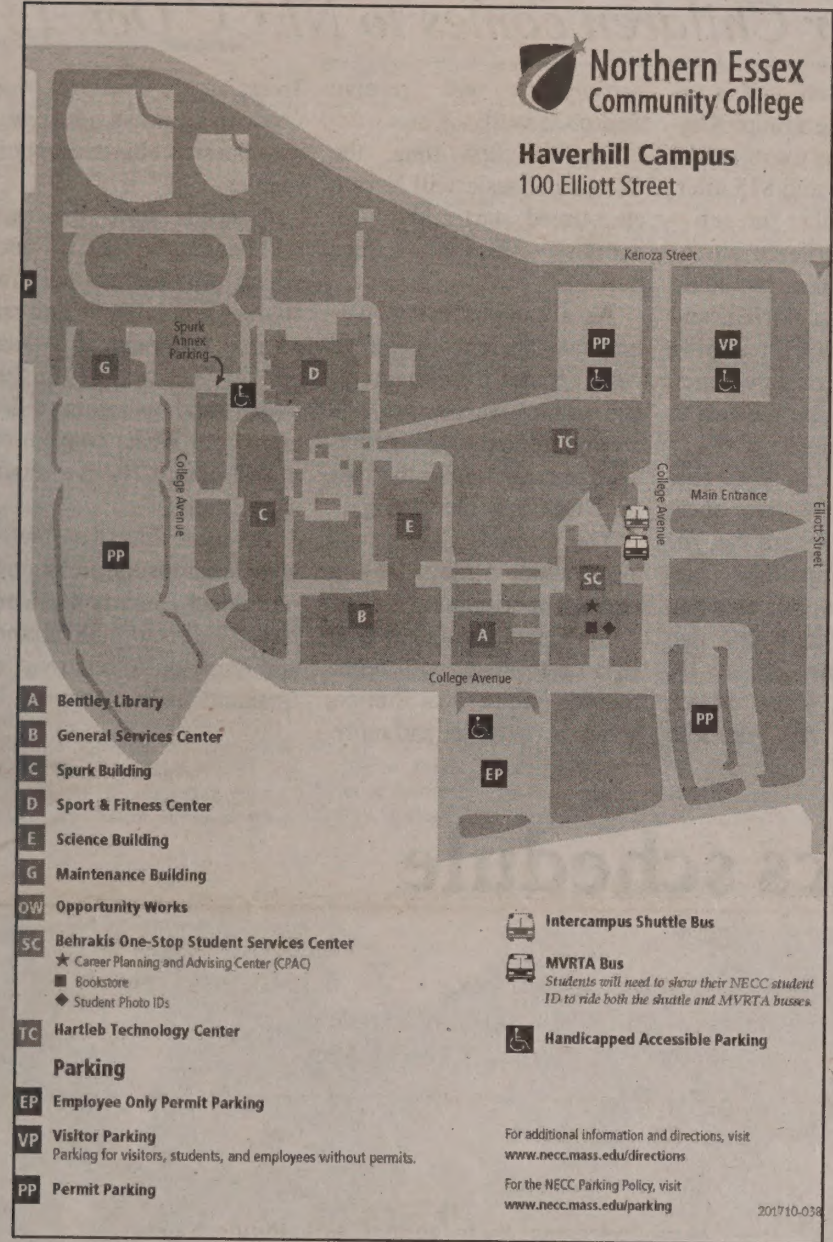
observer@necc.mass.edu

More

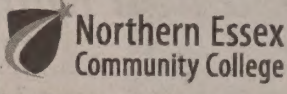
Campus guides



Haverhill Campus 100 Elliott Street



courtesy of Northern Essex Community College



Lawrence Campus

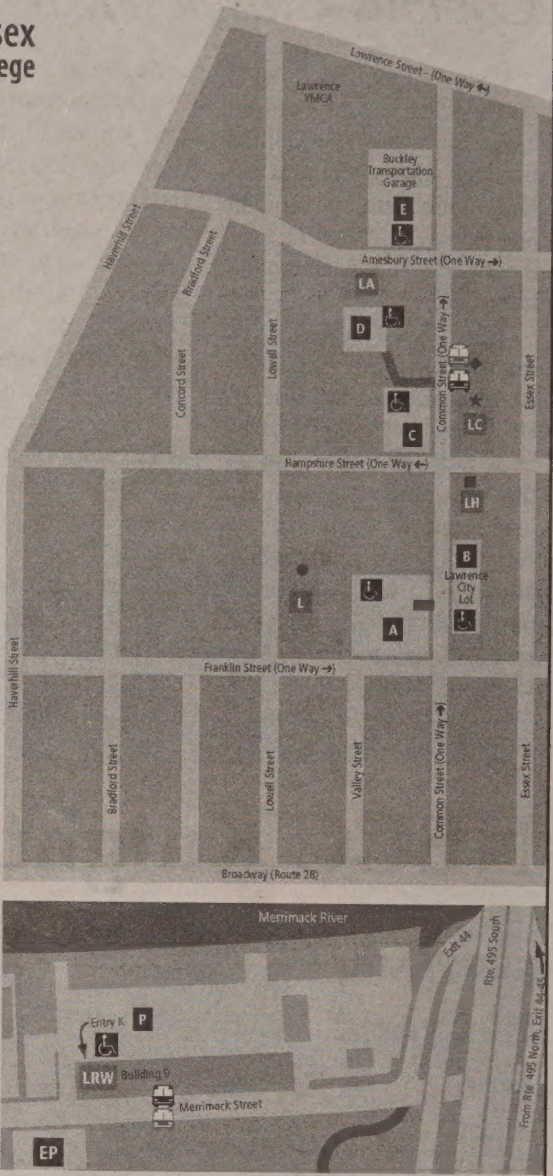
- L** John R. Dimitry Building
45 Franklin Street
● Library
- LA** Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center
78 Amesbury Street
- LC** Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center
414 Common Street
★ Career Planning and Advising Center (CPAC)
◆ Student Photo IDs
- LH** 420 Common Street
■ Bookstore
- LRW** Riverwalk
360 Merrimack Street
Building 9, Entry K

- Parking**
- A&D** Permit Parking
 - B&E** Permit/Validated Parking
Validation with a current NECC parking permit is available M-F at buildings L, LA, LC, and LH.
 - C** Permit/Visitor Parking
 - EP** Employee Only Permit Parking
 - P** General Parking

- Intercampus Shuttle Bus
- MVRTA Bus
Students will need to show their NECC student ID to ride both the shuttle and MVRTA buses.
- Handicapped Accessible Parking
- Handicapped Access to Lots and Sidewalks

For additional information and directions, visit www.necc.mass.edu/directions
For the NECC Parking Policy, visit www.necc.mass.edu/parking

201710-038



courtesy of Northern Essex Community College

Haverhill campus map

Lawrence campus map

This paper is your voice, too!
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You can reach us at:

978-556-3027
observer@necc.mass.edu

Sports

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Runners ready to make their mark

Campus Classic 5K and Fun Run for Children comes to NECC Oct. 13

Registration is now open for the sixth annual Northern Essex Community College Campus Classic 5K and Fun Run, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 to kick off the college's second annual homecoming.

The USA Track & Field certified 5K race will begin at 10 a.m. on the college's Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St., and continue through the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

All runners and walkers alike are invited to participate. Online registration will remain open until Oct. 11 at www.lightboxreg.com.

"The Campus Classic is

one of those feel good events that brings out the best of who we are as a community college. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and community friends cheering each other on, working hard and having fun," said Lindsay Graham, Director of Scholarships, Alumni and Community Relations.

The general race entry fee is \$25 before Oct. 11; \$30 after. With a valid campus ID or ID number, students are able to register for the discounted price of \$10 through race day.

Younger children are invited to participate in the Fun Run, which begins at 9

a.m. on the track and is organized by age group. Registration for the event is \$10 before Oct. 11 and \$15 after. A variety of other fun activities will be offered alongside the Fun Run, including face painting, coloring, and a "touch-a-truck" featuring various types of emergency response vehicles for kids to climb and explore.

The first 250 5K registrants will receive sport tech T-shirts. Award categories include top three male and female overall plus top three by the following age divisions: under 15, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. All Fun Run

participants will receive awards as well.

For the first time, the Campus Classic will have a chip-timed start and finish, courtesy of Bay State Race Services.

As a campus event, participants are encouraged to wear apparel from their college as they walk or run, and are welcomed and encouraged to remain after the race for NECC's homecoming.

The Campus Classic will also include a range of volunteer opportunities.

Interested volunteers may sign up to assist with registration, water distribution, setup, giveaways, and more.

To register to volunteer, visit www.necc.mass.edu/campus-classic/volunteer-opportunities.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the NECC Fund, which provides support for student scholarships and academic programs. Covanta, one of the world's largest owners and operators of Energy-from-Waste conversion infrastructure, is the Platinum Sponsor.

For more information visit www.campusclassic5k.com or contact Lindsay Graham, NECC director of alumni and community relations, at lgraham@necc.mass.edu.

NECC Knights athletics schedule

SEPTEMBER

Friday Sept. 14

Women's Volleyball vs. Bronx Community College 6:30 PM

Saturday, Sept. 15

Men's cross country at UMass-Dartmouth Invitationl 10:30 a.m.

Women's cross country at UMass-Dartmouth Invitationl 12:00 PM

Women's Volleyball TBA

vs. Community College of Rhode Island

@ CCRI Tournament - All Day

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Women's Volleyball at NHTI 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 20

Women's Volleyball, MassBay Community College 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22

Women's and Men's Cross Country 10:30 a.m.

at Pop Crowell Invitational

Gordon College

Saturday, Sept. 29

Women's Cross Country 10 a.m.

Men's Cross Country 11 a.m.

Tri-State Invitational, Community College of Rhode Island

Sports

observer.necc.mass.edu @theneccobserver facebook.com/neccobserver

Jeff Mejia named assistant athletic director

Baseball coach takes on new role

By NECC NEWSROOM

Northern Essex Community College Athletic Director Dan Blair has announced that baseball coach Jeff Mejia has joined the department on a full-time basis as Assistant Athletic Director effective August 14th.

In a restructuring of the department, Mejia's primary roles will consist of supervising the colleges Fitness Center (which is currently undergoing a renovation), serving as the department's recruiting/retention coordinator and academic liaison and assisting with athletic compliance.

Additionally, Mejia will assist in scheduling, departmental fundraising and the strategic growth of the Knights athletic program.

Mejia will continue to serve as the college's baseball coach where he has amassed a 142-78 (.672%) record in seven seasons and produced 11 All-Americans and 37 First Team All-Region selections.

"Jeff's success on the field speaks for itself and his skill-set will be a tremendous asset to the entire athletic pro-

am looking forward to this expanded role within the athletic department and working across campus to continue the growth and success of our athletic program...

- Jeff Mejia

gram on a full-time basis.

As we continue to grow and enhance our overall program I look forward to incorporating his expertise as we serve the students of the Merrimack Valley and beyond," said Blair.

Mejia added, "I am both excited and humbled to take the Assistant Athletic Director position at Northern Essex Community College. I am looking forward to this expanded role within the athletic department and working across campus to continue the growth and success of our athletic program within our Northern Essex community."

Mejia holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Salem State College in Sports Fit-

ness and Leisure Studies, with a concentration in Coaching.

He also served in the United States Army and served in Operation Desert Storm.

He and his wife Colleen currently reside in North Reading with their two children, Jeff Jr. a sophomore on the UMass-Lowell baseball team and Isabella a freshman at Clemson University.

Northern Essex Community College competes as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and sponsors nine varsity intercollegiate sports including baseball, men's basketball, golf, softball, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's track and field.



Jeff Mejia



Join students, faculty, staff and President Lane Glenn to 'Run the Campus' this fall

The President's Running Club will meet weekly during the Fall semester—and EVERYONE is invited to participate.

When and Where

Mondays, beginning September 17, from 12:15-1:00. Meet in front of the Sport & Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus.

Can't make it on Mondays?

Use our Virtual Check In to let us know you walked or ran.

What

Beginning runners or those getting back to running can join Jeff Bickford in the "Couch to 5K" group (no previous running experience necessary).

President Glenn will run with intermediate and experienced runners, with groups

forming based on the number of participants and their pace.

New this fall—Walking Groups! Recognizing there are lots of walkers out there, Izabela Iem, Mary Murphy, and other avid ambler will lead walking groups.

Also new this fall—Yoga! Good running begins with good stretching. Marathoners Kirsten Kortz and Kristen Sparrow will help get the club warmed

up for our weekly walks/runs.

Everyone who logs at least ten walks/runs will receive a special club tech shirt and free entry into the Pentucket Pride 5k Road Race on Sunday, November 25.

Even More

The 6th Annual NECC Campus Classic 5k has been moved to October 13 as part of NECC Homecoming 2018 Weekend.

On Saturday, October 20 the President's Running Club will travel via NECC shuttle bus to the Berkshire Community College Harvest Run.

We will be exploring the creation of a 1-mile "Fitness Trail Loop" around the campus with workout stations along the way.

Just for Fun

www.observer.necc.mass.edu [@theneccobserver](https://twitter.com/theneccobserver) facebook.com/neccobserver

Season's change



Photo by Brennan Cooney

Photos taken around Essex County over the past year show the changing of the seasons.

